

WASHINGTON, DC - Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (D-MD) announced that the Fiscal Year 2009 Omnibus Appropriations bill approved by the House of Representatives yesterday includes federal funds he secured that will benefit Charles, Calvert and St. Mary's Counties. The legislation combines 10 of 13 appropriations bills for Fiscal Year 2009 and will fund 12 of 15 Cabinet departments, several independent government agencies, and the District of Columbia government. The Senate is expected to vote on the legislation this week before sending it to the President to be signed into law.

"Fighting for Maryland's share of federal funding is something I have been strongly committed to doing since I was first elected to Congress," stated Congressman Hoyer. "This year's federal appropriations bill includes funding that will support a variety of programs and projects benefitting Charles, Calvert and St. Mary's Counties.

Included are investments in education, public safety, transportation, economic development and critical environmental preservation efforts that will benefit citizens across the Tri-County region. Funding was also approved for a number of statewide initiatives, including Chesapeake Bay restoration programs, which are working to improve the lives of Marylanders throughout the state and the Fifth Congressional District."

Congressman Hoyer helped secure funding for the following list of projects and programs that will benefit Southern Maryland.

Public Safety

Calvert County Mobile Data Terminals - \$500,000

The bill includes \$500,000 in COPS Technology funding for the Calvert County Department of Public Safety for Mobile Data Terminals (MDT). The funding will be used to purchase mobile data terminals in support of local law enforcement and public safety in the county, including at the Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Facility.

Education

College of Southern Maryland STEM Workforce Initiative- \$486,000

Funding will help equip the Institute for Science Technology, Engineering and Math (ISTEM) that will prepare for the future workforce needs of the region and state. Funding will be utilized for equipment, supplies, and outreach activities for K-12 in Calvert, Charles and St. Mary's counties. Of the graduating high school students matriculating to college more than 65% attend CSM in all three counties.

College 101: Preparing Women and Minorities for College and Careers in Technology - \$143,000

The funding is for St. Mary's College of Maryland to expand its College 101 program to bring more minority students into the college pipeline; increase minority participation in math and science programs and related programs. The program seeks to also increase the interest of middle school aged females in pursuing careers in math and science.

Transportation

MD 4 and Suitland Parkway - \$1,567,500

Funding will support the MD 4 and Suitland Parkway Interchange project. The Suitland Parkway Interchange project will expand a major corridor from Calvert County in Southern Maryland to Washington, D.C., ease traffic, and improve access to the military bases in Southern Maryland. Funds would be used to upgrade a very congested section of MD 4 to a multi-lane freeway and includes construction of a roundabout diamond interchange and associated ramps connecting MD 4 and Suitland Parkway.

Southern Maryland Commuter Bus Initiative - \$950,000

Commuter bus service has grown rapidly in Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's counties over the past sixteen years and the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) Southern Maryland Commuter Bus program now operates more than 200 bus trips with a total of 7,200 riders each day. Unfortunately, increased ridership has resulted in a shortage of available parking spaces. This funding will support planning, design and construction of new or expanded commuter parking lots in Southern Maryland, as well as the acquisition of over-the-road coaches that help contractors meet MTA needs.

U.S. 301 Improvements - \$712,500

Funds will help address the transportation needs along U.S. 301 in Prince George's and Charles Counties. This highway is a major commuter thoroughfare from Southern Maryland to Washington, DC. Due to the economic growth in this region, U.S. 301 is often very congested and is in desperate need of upgrades.

MD 246, Great Mills Road, from MD 235 to Saratoga Drive - \$712,500

Funds will support streetscape construction of MD 246, Great Mills Road, from MD 235 to Saratoga Drive in Lexington Park in St. Mary's County. Funding will be used for resurfacing the roadway, replacing curb and gutter, providing continuous 5' wide sidewalks, building a center raised median from FDR Blvd. to Coral Drive, undertaking drainage improvements, consolidating/relocating utility poles, and providing landscaping and pedestrian lighting. All pedestrian facilities will be upgraded to comply with ADA standards.

Economic Development

Department of Housing and Urban Development

Within the Economic Development Initiatives account, these projects received the following funds as they are an integral part of critical neighborhood revitalization efforts in Maryland's 5th District:

- **\$380,000** for the Arc of Southern Maryland for renovation and expansion to create a multi-purpose community resources center in Prince Frederick, Md.
- **\$380,000** for the Charles County Homeless Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing Facility for the acquisition and rehabilitation of the former Changing Point South mental health facility in order to accommodate up to 100 homeless persons.

University Of Maryland Tobacco Alternative Study - \$280,000

The Alternative Uses for Tobacco Study Program at the University of Maryland is working to develop new non-smoking uses for tobacco, and explores the many valuable uses of the plant. Successful development of this project could help maintain an agricultural base in Southern Maryland, and serve as a model for other tobacco-producing areas.

Environmental Preservation

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) -Alliance for Coastal Technologies - \$1 Million

The Alliance for Coastal Technologies (ACT) is a partnership of 8 research institutions across the country, including the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science Chesapeake Bay Laboratory in Solomons, that works with NOAA to develop integrated marine observing systems and forecast systems that benefit environmental managers and all coastal users.

Charles County Closed Loop Effluent Reuse System - \$750,000

This funding will enable the construction of a treated effluent reuse pipeline from the Charles County Government Mattawoman Wastewater Treatment Plant to White Plains, Maryland, the major distribution hub of the treated effluent reuse system. This pipeline will eliminate as much as 13 million gallons per day of treated effluent from being discharged into the Potomac River reducing pollutant loadings (118,716 pounds per year of nitrogen; 11,869 pounds per year of phosphorous) into the Potomac River and Chesapeake Bay. The treated effluent will be utilized for various electric power generating facilities for their wet flue gas desulfurization systems and for cooling purposes to condense steam. The utilization of treated effluent will eliminate the necessity of utilizing potable groundwater, a finite natural resource. The Maryland Geological Survey has conducted a Southern Maryland Patapsco Aquifer Study and concluded that certain areas of Charles County may experience water supply shortages beyond 2030.

Morgan State University Oyster Hatchery Economic Pilot Program - \$500,000

This vital program is a key part of the Center's efforts to help prevent an economic collapse of Maryland communities that have historically been dependent on oysters and restore the once plentiful oyster population in the Bay. Undertaken by the Morgan State University Estuarine Research Center, this program seeks to find market-based solutions to replenish the population of oysters in the Chesapeake Bay. By developing a means to produce a revenue source on a more predictable schedule, this project will help stabilize a declining industry and provide the means to stabilize the social and cultural foundation of many waterfront communities, not to mention significantly improve the overall health of the Bay.

Chesapeake Bay Programs

The omnibus appropriations bill includes close to \$43 million for projects programs that will benefit the Chesapeake Bay. [A full list of Chesapeake Bay funding is here.](#)

Cultural

Save America's Treasures - Jefferson Patterson House - \$150,000

Funding will be utilized for rehabilitation of the Patterson House and associated facilities (Patterson Center) located on the grounds of the state-owned and operated Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum in Calvert County, Maryland. The Patterson Center is a complex of 6 buildings totaling 14,647 square feet, a large pool, and manicured lawns and gardens that dates to the 1930s and retains a high level of integrity as a master work of an important female American architect, Gertrude Sawyer.

Per the terms of the Trust Agreement with the donor, the state is responsible to maintain and operate the Patterson House as a museum facility. While the State took responsibility for the property in 2003, no additional funds were allocated to maintain or operate the facility. The Center is currently functionally inadequate due to inaccessibility, a leaking roof and basement, buildings that do not meet current codes and a deficient HVAC system. Matched by the state, these funds would be utilized to complete Phase I of capital improvements on the interior and exterior of the Patterson House and make this site accessible to the public and make it easier to maintain.

Maryland-wide Initiatives

Rep. Hoyer also helped secure funding for the following statewide initiatives:

Community Health Integrated Partnership, Inc. Electronic Patient Record System- \$951,000

Community Health Integrated Partnership, Inc., (CHIP) will implement an Electronic Patient Record System (EPRS) in seven federally qualified community health centers representing 44 clinical delivery sites throughout Maryland. An eighth health center implemented an Electronic Patient Record four years ago that will be used as a “learning lab” in planning this initiative. CHIP launched its *Technology Improvement Project (TIP)* five years ago in an effort to upgrade the technology infrastructure of its health centers. The three components of the *TIP*

are: Phase I - implementation of an integrated single platform Practice Management System (PMS) (complete); Phase II- implementation of an integrated Electronic Patient Record (EPR) system, and Phase III, interoperability with area hospitals and other providers.

Best Buddies Maryland- \$190,000

Founded by Anthony Kennedy Shriver in 1989, Best Buddies is dedicated to fostering the social integration of children and adults with intellectual disabilities. A proven model, Best Buddies achieves this goal by organizing - and rigorously overseeing - volunteer-run chapters on middle school, high school, and college campuses. Best Buddies in Maryland seeks funds to support 30 middle or high school chapters. This project will have 750 participants, train 120 student leaders, provide leadership training to 30 students with intellectual disabilities, and include 120 group outings and countless individual meetings.

Rebuilding Together - Safe at Home - Fall Prevention Program- \$285,000

Collaborating with national home modification leaders and local community members, the Rebuilding Together affiliate network will expand its work improving accessibility and mobility for low-income, elderly homeowners. For 2009, Rebuilding Together is planning to complete 80 projects through the national program to prevent falls among low-income homeowners. As part of this effort, Rebuilding Together will conduct a minimum of seven projects in the 5th Congressional District. Federal funding will also be used to expand the fall prevention efforts in the State of Maryland through a minimum of 13 more projects.

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